

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09677 311931Z

70

ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 311651Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5510

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 9677

E.O. 11652: N-A

TAGS: CVIS CO

SUBJECT: "GRATIS" NOTATION ON NO FEE NIVS

REF STATE A-7777, 10-9-74

1. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS PERMISSION TO CONTINUE TO USE THE "GRATIS" NOTATION ON NIVS ISSUED TO COLOMBIANS. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, OUR NIV REFUSAL RATE IS APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT. THE FRAUD PROBLEM IS SERIOUS WITH AN AVERAGE OF A FRAUD RING BEING DISCOVERED WEEKLY. FOR EXAMPLE, A RING WAS UNCOVERED IN CALI LAST WEEK IN WHICH, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, OVER \$500 WAS CHARGED IN EACH CASE AND THE PERSON PERPETRATING THE FRAUD ADVISED HIS CLIENTS THAT HE HAD TO PAY OVER \$200 FOR EXPENSES AT THE CONSULATE.

2. IT MAY BE THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS IN COLOMBIA HAVE A RATHER PAROCHIAL VIEW POINT BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORD "GRATIS" FROM THE VISA STAMP WILL SAVE TIME, MONEY OR BENEFIT OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS. TO THE CONTRARY, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE COSTLY SINCE NEW DYES WILL HAVE TO BE ORDERED.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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